

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 181924

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:SENV, MX, VE, XL, XK, CA, CU

SUBJECT: CARIBBEAN REGIONAL MEETING ON LAND-BASED SOURCES
OF MARINE POLLUTION

REF: MEXICO 6712

1. WHILE WE ARE PLEASED TO LEARN THAT MEXICO IS PREPARED
TO CALL REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON THIS SUBJECT, PLANS OUT-
LINED BY VIZCAINO MURRAY (REFTEL) RAISE SEVERAL QUESTIONS,
OF WHICH MATTER OF CUBAN PARTICIPATION IS ONLY ONE. ON
SUBSTANTIVE GROUNDS IT WOULD OF COURSE BE LOGICAL TO IN-
CLUDE CUBA IN A CONFERENCE DEALING WITH POLLUTION IN THE
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CARIBBEAN AND CERTAINLY AT THIS STAGE YOU SHOULD NOT IN-

DICATE TO MEXICANS THAT CUBAN PARTICIPATION IS CRITICAL
ISSUE FOR US.

2. TWO OTHER QUESTIONS DO REQUIRE PROMPT CLARIFICATION.
FIRST, REFTEL INDICATES THAT MEXICAN PLAN FOR CONFERENCE
WOULD EXCLUDE GREAT MAJORITY OF COUNTRIES BORDERING ON
CARIBBEAN. WE WOULD SEE LITTLE PURPOSE IN A CONFERENCE
WHICH INCLUDED ONLY FIVE (U. S., MEXICO, JAMAICA, CUBA,
GUATEMALA) OF SOME FIFTEEN COUNTRIES CONCERNED. HOPE THIS
QUESTION CAN BE CLARIFIED PROMPTLY. IN ANY CASE, VIZCAINO
MURRAY SHOULD NOT BE ENCOURAGED TO THINK THAT WE WOULD BE
INTERESTED IN RUMP SESSION INVOLVING MEXICO, CANADA, GUATE-
MALA, JAMAICA, CUBA, AND U. S.

3. WE ARE ALSO CONCERNED OVER BROAD AGENDA "INCLUDING
LAND-BASED AS WELL AS MARINE POLLUTION." AS EMBASSY IS
AWARE, LAND-BASED SOURCES OF MARINE POLLUTION ARE NEW EN-
VIRONMENTAL FRONTIER. BEGINNINGS HAVE BEEN MADE WITH
RECENTLY CONCLUDED CONVENTIONS COVERING LAND-BASED POLLU-
TION IN BALTIC AND NORTHEAST ATLANTIC. OUR OBJECTIVE IS
TO COMPLEMENT THOSE CONVENTIONS WITH SIMILAR TREATY FOR
CARIBBEAN AND POSSIBLY NORTHWEST ATLANTIC. THIS OBJECTIVE
WOULD BE CONFUSED BY SEEKING TO DEAL WITH OTHER SOURCES
OF MARINE POLLUTION. LATTER ARE ALREADY COVERED UNDER
SEVERAL EXISTING CONVENTIONS AND WHERE THESE NEED PERFECT-
ING WE LOOK PRIMARILY TO IMCO AND LAW OF SEA CONFERENCE.
EFFORTS IN LOS FORUM COULD BE SERIOUSLY COMPROMISED BY
PROPOSED CARIBBEAN CONFERENCE UNLESS LATTER IS STRICTLY
LIMITED TO LAND-BASED SOURCES OF MARINE POLLUTION WHICH
LOS CONFERENCE IS NOT EXPECTED TO TREAT EXCEPT IN VERY
GENERAL TERMS.

4. REQUEST EMBASSY CONSULT FURTHER WITH VIZCAINO MURRAY
ON QUESTIONS RAISED PARA 2 AND 3 ABOVE WITH VIEW TO ESTAB-
LISHING WHETHER MEXICO IS PREPARED (A) TO INCLUDE ALL
CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES IN CONFERENCE, AND (B) TO LIMIT AGENDA
TO LAND-BASED SOURCES OF MARINE POLLUTION. ANY FURTHER
ELUCIDATION OF MEXICAN OBJECTIVES, E. G., WHETHER CONFER-
ENCE WOULD SEEK TO CONCLUDE CONVENTION OR SIMPLY EXCHANGE
VIEWS, WOULD ALSO BE APPRECIATED. FINALLY, CAN EMBASSY
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ASCERTAIN WHETHER FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN
PLANS FOR CONFERENCE? KISSINGER

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